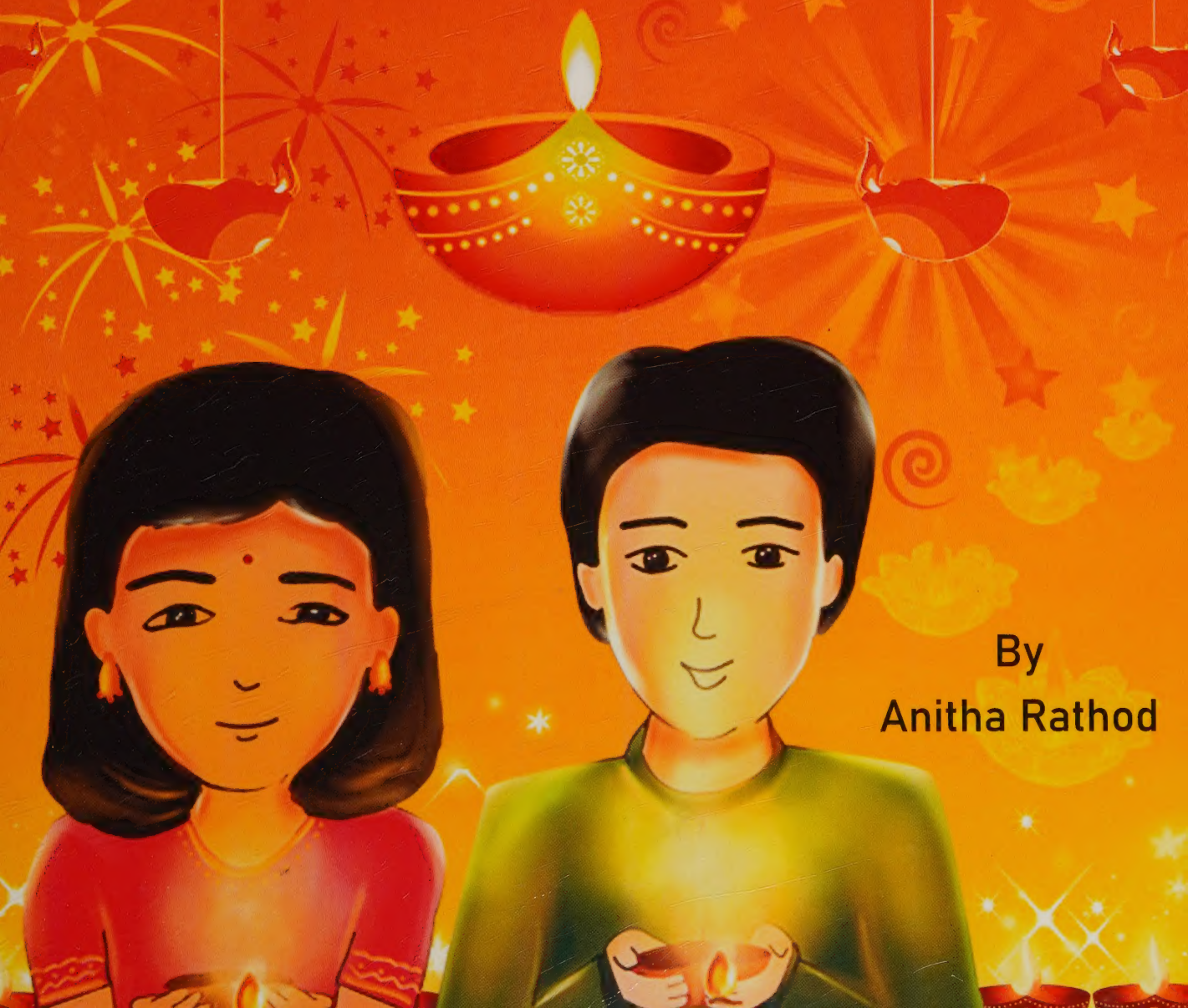
Diwali

The Magical Diyas



By
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Diwali the magical diyas

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Pronunciation Guide

Ayodhya: uh - y oh dh - y ah

Diwali: d ih - w ah - l ee

Diya: d ee - y ah

Lakshmi: l uh k - sh m ee

Laxmana: lak-sh-ma na

Puja: p oo - j ah

Rama: ra-ma

Rangoli: r uh ng oh l ih

Ravana: r aa - v uh - na

Sita: s ee - t ah

Meanings

Diwali: a Hindu festival that is held in the autumn/fall, celebrated by lighting candles and clay lamps, and with fireworks.

Diya: a small oil lamp, that is shaped like a cup and made from baked clay.

Puja: a Hindu ceremony of worship.

Rangoli: a traditional Indian form of decoration consisting of patterns made with ground rice.

Exile: the condition of someone being sent or kept away from their own country.

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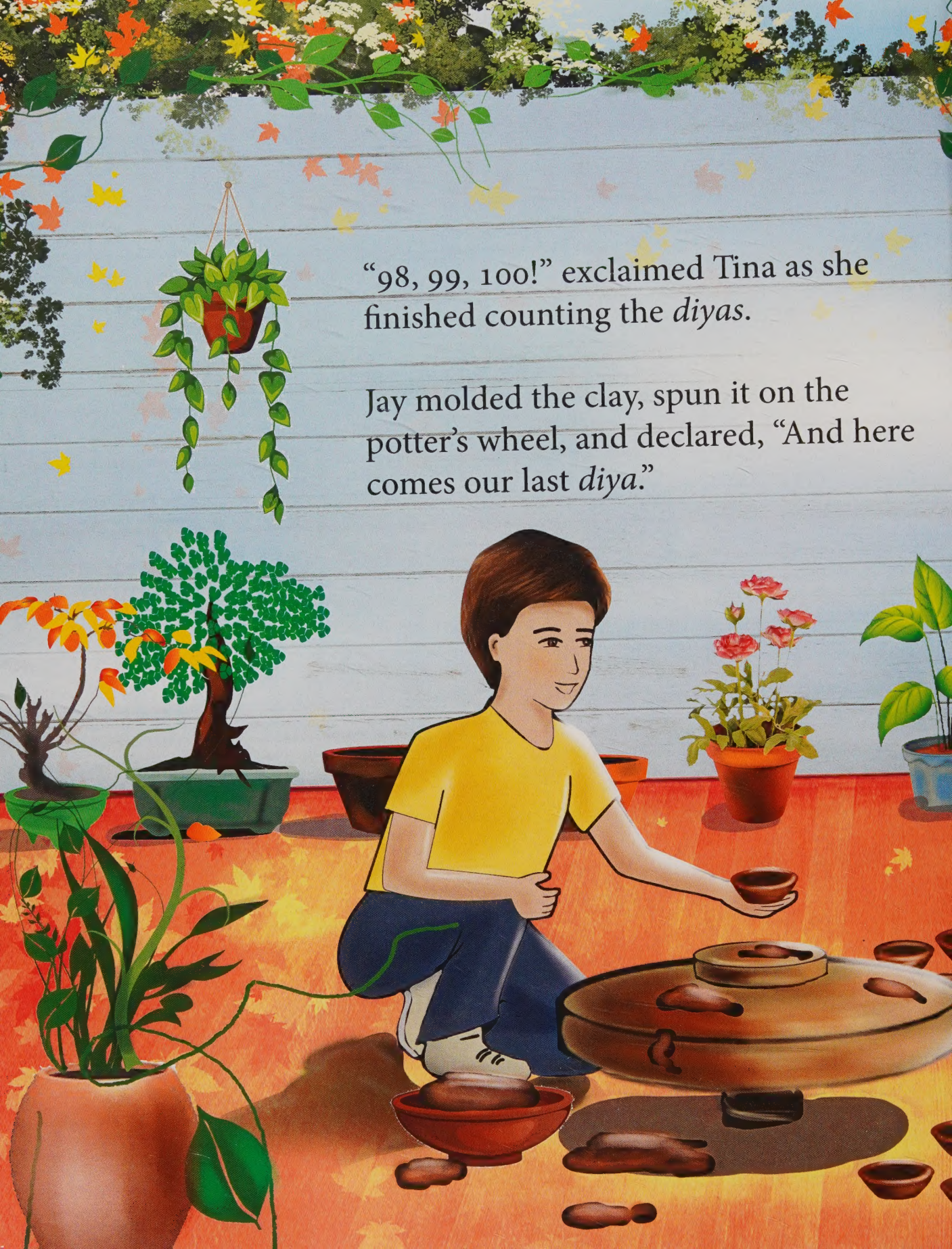
Written and illustrated by
Anitha Rathod



"98, 99, 100!" exclaimed Tina as she finished counting the *diyas*.

Jay molded the clay, spun it on the potter's wheel, and declared, "And here comes our last *diya*."

Jay and Tina arranged their 101 *diyas* on the terrace and left them to dry in the sun. "I can't wait to light them all this *Diwali*." Tina beamed.

People clean their houses before Diwali to welcome Goddess Lakshmi.

The next day, with duster in one hand and cleaner in the other, Jay was ready to start the customary cleaning before Diwali. So too was Tina.

By the end of the day, their room was spick and span.

CAFE

The clock struck 6, and Jay jumped to his feet and cried out, "Oh no, the play! It starts at 6." Both of them rushed to the theatre. The play was about the story of Rama and Sita.

STORY OF DIWALI

Thousands of years ago, Lord Rama was sent to exile, along with his wife Sita and brother Laxmana.

During the exile, Rama defeated the evil and most powerful ten headed demon Ravana.

Diwali is the celebration of Lord Rama's victory over Ravana - the victory of good over evil.

After completing 14 years of exile and defeating Ravana, Lord Rama returned to his kingdom Ayodhya. The people of Ayodhya welcomed their king by lighting rows of clay lamps.

They lit up their homes with earthen lamps, burst crackers and decorated the whole kingdom in the most stupendous way.

And this day is celebrated by everyone with immense joy by lighting diyas.

The next morning, Jay and Tina woke up full of joy and glee. It was Diwali, the day they had been waiting for.

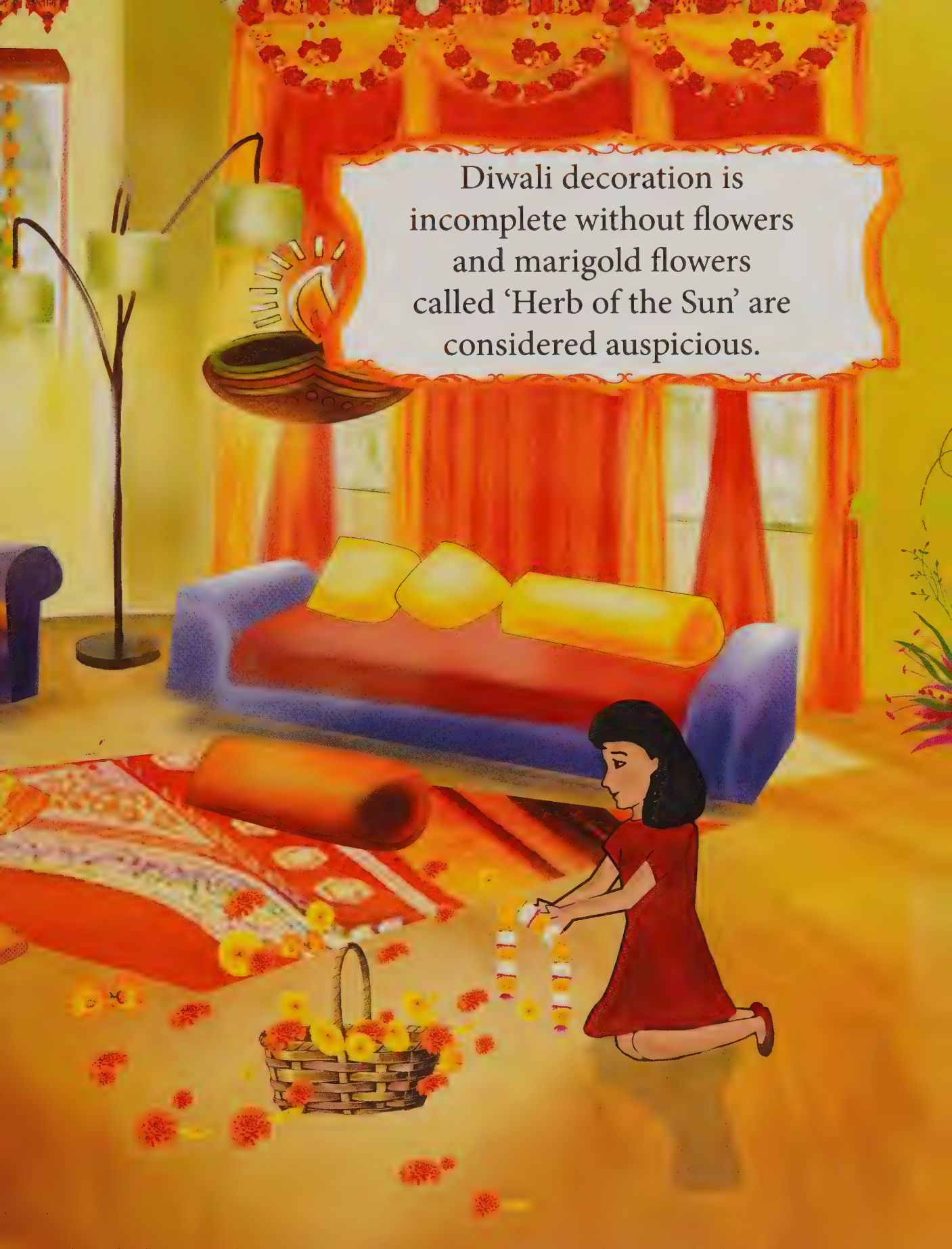
They had the same question on their minds: Were the diyas dry yet?

They checked them all, but sadly not even one diya had fully dried.

"What are we going to do now?" whimpered Tina.

"Hey, come on, we have lots of other important things to do today. This is no time to be upset, it's Diwali," reminded Jay.

They decorated their house with beautiful marigold flowers.

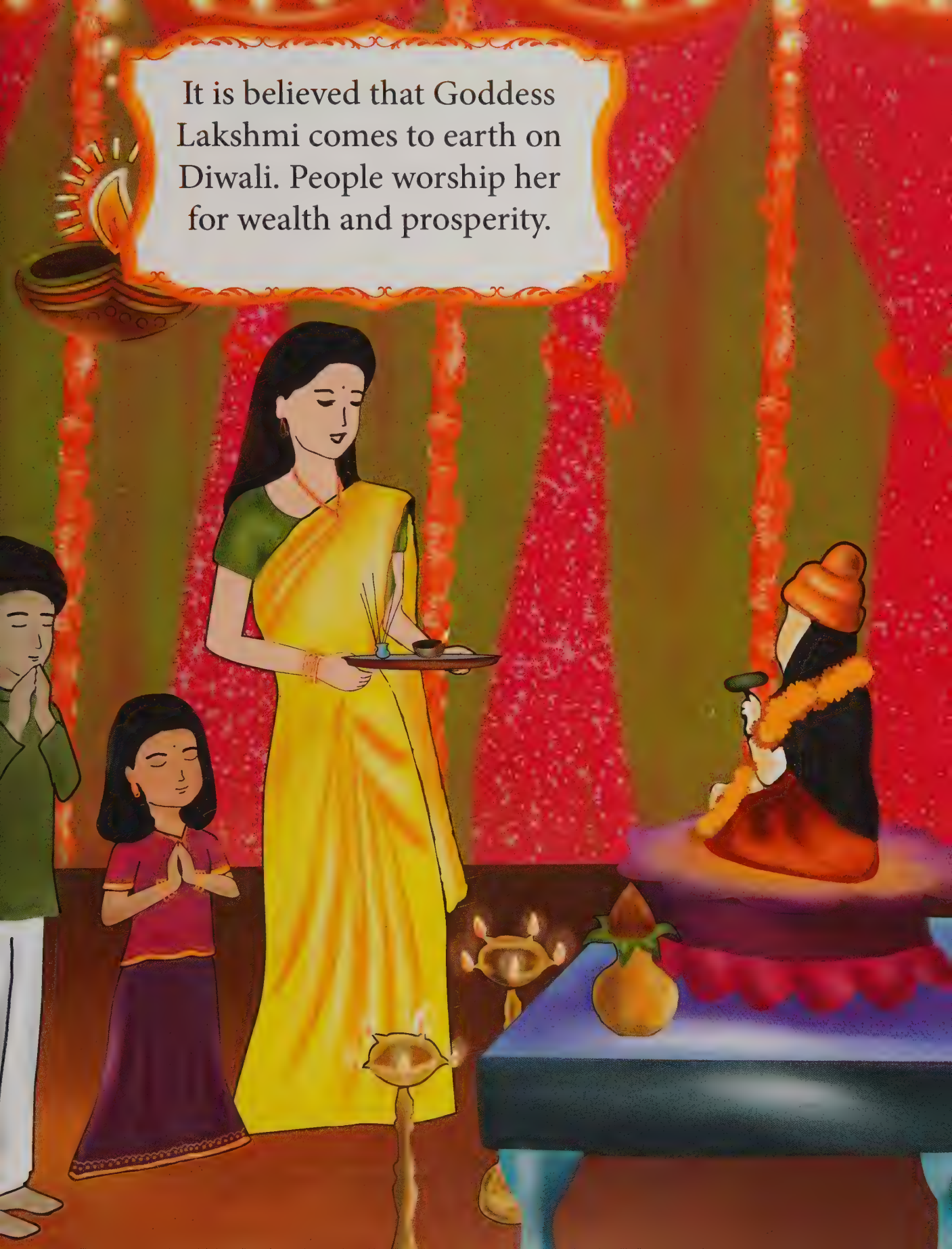

Diwali decoration is incomplete without flowers and marigold flowers called 'Herb of the Sun' are considered auspicious.

"Hey, my rangoli design is more beautiful than yours," Tina teased Jay.

On Diwali, people decorate the floors of their living rooms and entrance of their houses, with beautiful rangoli designs filled with color powder.
But Jay was in no mood to give up. He added bright colors with more glitter in his rangoli and said, "Look now, my rangoli looks prettier than yours."

In the evening, Jay and Tina dressed up in their new clothes and performed Lakshmi puja with family members.

It was getting dark and people had already started lighting diyas in their houses, but alas, Jay and Tina had none to light.

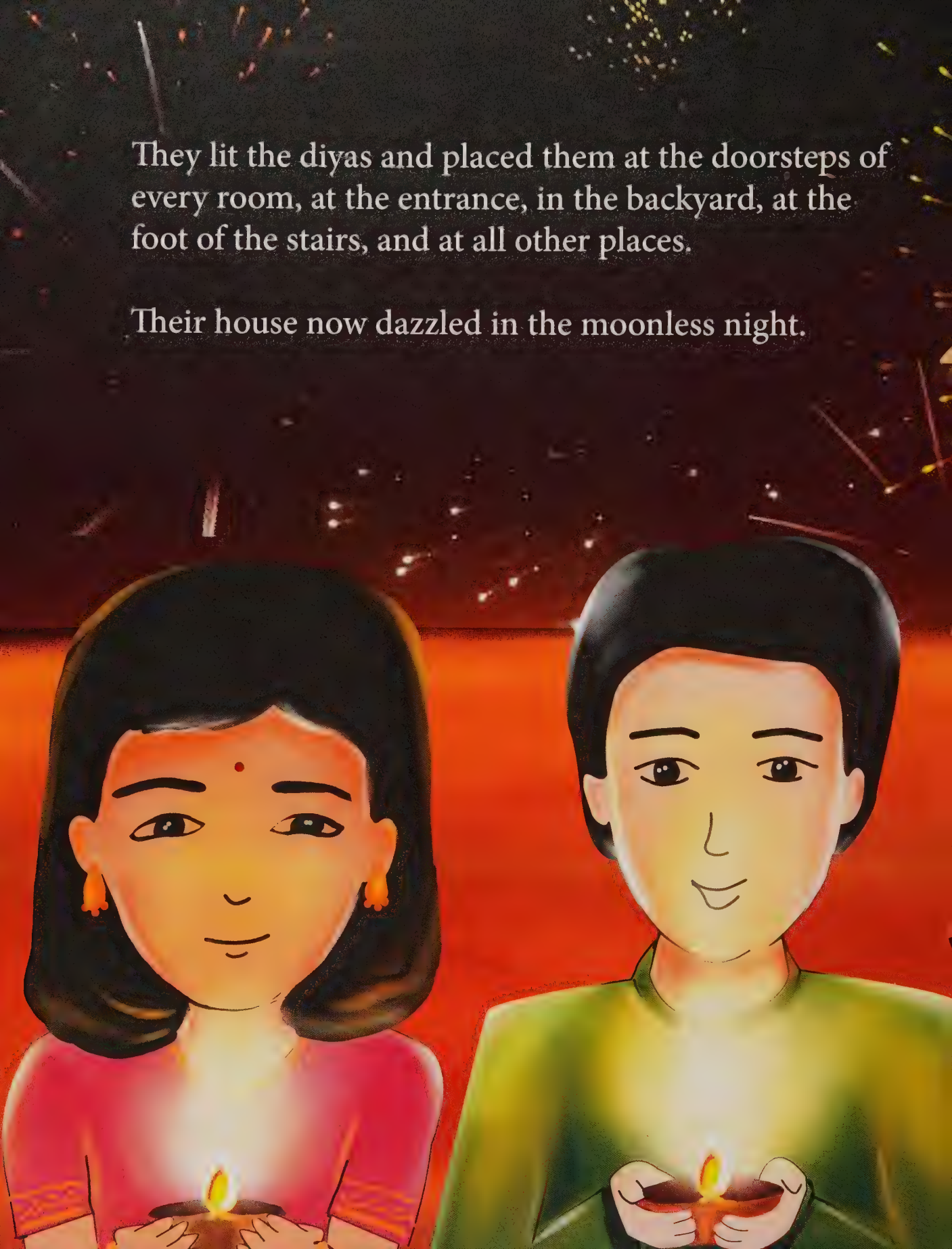

It is believed that Goddess Lakshmi comes to earth on Diwali. People worship her for wealth and prosperity.

“For one last time,
do you want to check
again?” said Jay in a
hopeful voice.

They ran to the terrace and, as they inspected the diyas one after the other, they kept shouting, "Is this a miracle or what?" All the 101 diyas were perfectly dried and ready just in time.

They lit the diyas and placed them at the doorsteps of every room, at the entrance, in the backyard, at the foot of the stairs, and at all other places.

Their house now dazzled in the moonless night.



Jay and Tina celebrated Diwali with their family, bursting crackers and eating delicious sweets.

Diwali, also known as the 'festival of lights,' is the most important festival for all Hindus.

The festival gets its name Deepawali, or Diwali, from the rows (avali) of lamps (deepa) that the people of Ayodhya lit to welcome their King Rama.

It is a common practice to exchange gifts on Diwali.

It is the glorious occasion that is not restricted to one day but extended to a five-day celebration.

Diwali is associated with many stories and legends. One of the greatest and most famous legends behind celebrating Diwali is the victory of Lord Rama over the demon king Ravana as described in the book.

Wonder why the author kept the count of diyas as 101 and not 99, or 10 or maybe 15 or 50 or any other number for that matter?

In Hinduism, the number 101 is considered as a number of purity and hence auspicous.

About the author

Anitha Rathod was born in the historic city of Hyderabad, India. She studied Finance and Human Resources at the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow. She worked with corporates for about a decade before deciding to pursue her passion for writing and creating books. She is the mother of two young and naughty kids. She loves creating books for children that are fun and filled with imagination.

Thank you for reading!

If you enjoyed reading this book, please leave an honest review on Amazon and social media. Your review will help others discover my book and encourage me to keep on writing!

I am grateful for your time and thanks for choosing to read, "The Magical Diyas"

Happy Diwali

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Diwali
The Magical Diyas

This Diwali, Jay and Tina make 101 clay diyas and cannot wait to light them all. Diwali is only a day away and the diyas are taking their own sweet time to dry up. Will they be ready in time? Will Jay and Tina celebrate the festival with the bright lights of their diyas?

Learn the legend behind the most celebrated festival in India and understand the rituals and traditions associated with Diwali. The book brings you a magical story and the mythological significance of Diwali celebration.

Come, let's celebrate Diwali with Jay and Tina as they p
and look forward to celebrating this speci
family.

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